

City of Alexandria, Virginia
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)

Monthly Meeting
November 15, 2022, 7 p.m.
City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room

Summary Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Deb Derrick, Chris Ferrara, Tom Gates, Janet Fleetwood (Vice Chair), Amy Friedlander (Chair), Karen Graf, Laurie MacNamara, Skip Maginniss, John Ruthinoski, Kathy Stenzel

Excused Absence: Julio Ramirez, Rob Rapanut

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Staff: Morgan Routt, Arthur Wicks

AEDP Guests: Stephanie Landrum, Ryan Touhill, Sydney Aulffo

Community Guest: Canek Aguirre

I. Call to Order

Chair Friedlander called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Minutes

Deb Derrick motioned to approve minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting with corrections. Janet Fleetwood seconded and the motion carried.

III. Update from AEDP

AEDP executive director Stephanie Landrum introduced their renewed focus based on an extensive study and analysis of Alexandria's image from outside the community to help attract key economic drivers to the City. AEDP has identified specific challenges to address, and also unique characteristics to market Alexandria to a broad spectrum of businesses. Beginning in December, a new staff team organized around their new agenda will work to strengthen alliances and to identify and engage businesses in targeted categories to support sustainable growth.

IV. City Council Retreat Debrief

Chair Friedlander reported an active discussion with Council during BFAAC's presentation at the annual budget retreat. She said Council was receptive to our recommendations for budget guidance as well as our suggested Work Plan for the fiscal year. After significant discussion about budget concerns around transportation the Committee asked to invite representatives from transit to our next meeting. There was also significant discussion around compensation and the potential impact of collective bargaining, which the Committee will also address again with staff at a future meeting.

V. BFAAC FY2024 Workplan Items

The Committee recognized three significant issues competing for funding and attention in transit, collective bargaining/compensation and capital funding (in terms of borrowing and impact on operating budget). The Committee discussed options for addressing these matters for Council in terms of separate topical memos or possibly combining some items. Kathy Stenzel and Karen Graf will work with the School Board's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) on an outline for a joint memo addressing capital funding as outlined in the Work Plan.

VI. Committee Housekeeping Items

The Committee reviewed draft BFAAC Bylaws presented by Chair Friedlander. After a motion from Janet Fleetwood, seconded by John Ruthinoski, the Bylaws were approved with minor edits. The Committee agreed to review again Article III, Section 4 regarding Committee composition at a later date.

VII. OMB Report

Morgan Routt reported that the City engaged in year-end borrowing and credit updates with the financial community in October and that reception was strong. Revised credit ratings should be available soon. Two notable issues discussed were recession planning and transportation investment to support significant development in the City.

Arthur Wicks reinforced the City's careful approach to borrowing, only accessing what they know will be spent, gauging carefully progress on projects within the capital budget. Art also called attention to the FY2024 ACPS draft budget that included capital expenses \$130 million higher than currently budgeted, including \$24 million in the coming year. He said the numbers were newly shared and still being analyzed. Stenzel noted that some forward expense was anticipated for middle school capacity and all agreed that more detail is needed.

VIII. Adjourn

Art reminded Committee members the next meeting is December 13, moved up because of the holidays.

Karen Graf motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kathy Stenzel, and Chair Friedlander adjourned at 8:55 pm.